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Against Federal Police

Forthright declarations by J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, against any move by the Federal Government to take over local law enforcement are decidedly acceptable.

Before the International Association of Chiefs of Police, meeting at Washington, he took particular exception to "recurring suggestions for Federal Crime commissions, national clearing houses and special prosecuting teams to cover the United States."

If anyone has an accurate understanding of the problems of law enforcement in this country, we believe Mr. Hoover heads the list. He feels, and says flatly, that the typical compact network of State and local law enforcement agencies "traditionally has been the Nation's first line of defense against crime."

Director Hoover feels that nothing could be more dangerous to America's democratic ideals than an "all-powerful police agency on the Federal scene."

It is certainly to be hoped that no over-eager elements pursue ideas of creating a Federal police organization. With a national crime bill of \$22 billions, vigorous and effective measures are needed, calling for tighter organization of State and local police forces. Mr. Hoover has kept the FBI as a vital factor in the war against crime, but without encroaching on non-Federal law enforcement. That's as it should be.

A Central Intelligence Agency spokesman told the police organization that the Reds seek to infiltrate or destroy police agencies. With Federal police their activities could be made infinitely easier.